Purchases of coking coal by the Steel Authority of India

362. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Steel Authority of India (SAIL) makes spot purchases of coking coal in overseas market and has not entered into any long term contracts for imports of coking coal;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the international coal prices have risen, particularly after 1985;

(c) what are the purchase prices and the quantity of coking coal imported by the SAIL for the past three spot purchase deals; and

(d) whether government have taken any decision to import coking coal for steel industry on long term contract basis rather than making spot purchases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir, the prices of coking coal in the international market exhibited a declining trend between 1985 to 1987. However, in the current year, the itnernational coal prices have gone up as compared to 1987-88 prices.

(c) SAIL has, under the last three purchases, concluded contracts with overseas suppliers for import of 2.64 million tonnes of coking coal at an FOB value of about Rs. 163 crores.

(d) SAIL's proposal to explore the possibilities of entering into long term contracts with suppliers for meeting a part of its requirements of imported coking coal is currently under examination of the Government.

Television centre at Visakhapatnam

363. SHRI YALLASESI [illegible] SHANA RAO: Will the Minister INFORMATION AND BRADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Television viewers in certain areas of Visakhapatnam city are unable to watch the Television programmes since areas in which they reside fall in shadow regions;

(b) if so, whether the wrong selection of site for the erection of low power Simhachalam transmitter commissioned in 1986 is responsible the shadow regions; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to rectify the defect

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. BHAGAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The site at Simhachalam hill was selected keeping in view the optimum coverage and other technical factors.

(c) It has been decided to instal transposer to provide TV service the shadow area.

Comparative analysis of working of F.C.I.

364. SHRI SHARAD YADAV
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA
SHRI KAPIL VERMA
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any comparative analysis of the working of the Fertiliser Corporation of India has been made recently by Government;

(b) if so, when and the authority who has made such an analysis and what is the outcome thereof she